

*With the Medical Officer of Health
Compts.
Army*

THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HASLEMERE.

ANNUAL REPORT of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
1916.

ROGER J. HUTCHINSON, HASLEMERE.

CAUSEWAYSIDE,

HASLEMERE,

March, 1916.

**To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Haslemere.**

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the Third Annual Report, as your Medical Officer of Health, three points stand out prominently in the Sanitary state of the Town in the past year.

Firstly.—As prophesied in last year's Report, the billeting of soldiers in the Town and the proximity of Bramshott Camp have, without doubt, unfortunately led to a great increase in Infectious Disease. The beginning of 1915 was marked by a very severe outbreak of Measles. There have been more cases of Scarlet Fever than usual, and spread, traceable in two instances at least, to soldiers. The end of 1915 again was marked by a severe outbreak of German Measles.

Secondly.—The establishment of a most useful and excellent Sanitary Convenience adjoining the Town Hall.

Thirdly.—The commencement of the alterations, under your Surveyor's, Mr. Snook's, direction, to the Town Drainage Works, which it is hoped will bring our sanitation up to a high and satisfactory standard.

The year has been a trying one to the Sanitary machine of the Town, the difficulties, as they have arisen, have I think been satisfactorily met. The adoption of the Measles Notification Act, and of the Child Welfare Act, have thrown not a little extra work on your Medical Officer.

RAINFALL. The Rainfall for 1915 was 45.54 inches, nearly an inch more than in 1914, which then had not been exceeded since 1875. Rain fell on 170 days. The average for 27 years is 36.33.

Water Supply.

It has been found necessary, owing to the presence of the Troops and other circumstances, causing exceptional strain on the Blackdown Supply, to at times connect with that of the Wey Valley Water Company.

Our headings at Blackdown have been considerably extended, with fairly satisfactory results.

Drainage.

The new Drainage Works will very shortly be completed. Many sanitary reforms in the District have perforce been held over until this is accomplished.

Sanitary Administration.

CONSERVANCY SYSTEM. The Council contract for the periodical emptying of 125 cesspools and 284 pail closets; the latter are emptied twice weekly and, although owing to the War there has been some difficulty with labour for this purpose, few complaints have been received.

The number of Sanitary Conveniences in the District is 1068, made up as follows:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.
No. of Privies, fixed receptacles ...	34	29	29
„ moveable „ ...	337	329	325
„ fresh-water closets ...	655	685	714
„ waste-water and hand-flushed closets ...	—	—	—
	<hr/> 1026	<hr/> 1043	<hr/> 1068

Conveniences from one type of closet to others have been made during the year as follows:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.
Privies fixed to moveable receptacles ...	—	—	—
„ with fixed receptacles to fresh-water W. C.s ...	—	5	—
„ with fixed receptacles to waste-water W. C.s ...	—	—	—
„ with moveable receptacles to fresh-water W. C.s ...	7	9	4
„ with moveable receptacles to waste-water W. C.s ...	—	—	—
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 4

Of Notifiable Infectious Disease there have been:—

Diphtheria ...	1 case.
Erysipelas ...	2 cases.
Scarlet Fever ...	15 cases.
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	1 case.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1 case.

Of these ten have been treated at Farnham Isolation Hospital.

The comparative absence of fresh cases of Tuberculosis is noteworthy.

The Schools have not been closed in 1915.

The Population is estimated at 3,928.

Vital Statistics.

Total number of Legitimate Births, 71; of Illegitimate, 2; making a total number of 73, of whom 34 were male and 39 female. There were two deaths of infants under 12 months.

DEATHS. A total of 56 deaths, after deducting 11 transferable deaths, gives a net total of 45 deaths occurring in the District.

Of these—2 died under 1 year.

1	„	aged 1 and under 5	
4	„	5	15
5	„	25	45
9	„	45	65
24	„	65 and upwards.	

This gives for 1915 a Birth Rate of 18.8 per 1000, on a population of 3,928; and a Death Rate of ~~13.4~~ ^{11.3} per 1000.

Of the 45 Deaths—

- 1 was from Violence.
- 1 from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.
- 2 „ Measles.
- 8 „ Heart Disease.
- 1 „ Cancer.
- 1 „ Phthisis.
- 13 of Acute Lung Disease, not Phthisis.

Housing.

Of the 859 houses in the District, the number of houses whose value in the Poor Rate Book is below £16 is 509. The number of houses above £16 and under £26 is 88.

The following buildings have been erected during the year:—

Dwelling Houses (20 of which were Cottages)	...	21
Additions	... ..	3
Miscellaneous Buildings	... ..	20
		—
		44
		—

Housing Inspection.

During the latter part of the year 22 houses were inspected under Sect. 17. Housing Act, 1909, as a commencement of the scheme formulated for the systematic inspection of the District, but in no case was it found necessary to take any further action under the Act.

No representations were made for the issues of Closing Orders.

It is hoped that during the coming year the inspection of the District will be pushed towards completion.

Nuisances arising from			Inspections.	Defects found.	Statutory Notices.	Informal Notices.	Remedied on Statutory Notice.	Remedied on Informal Notice.	Unremedied at end of the year.
Choked Drains	...	...	8	4	...	4	...	4	...
Defective Drains	...	...	30	4	1	3	1	3	...
Closet Accommodation	...	...	53	2	...	2	...	2	...
Manure Pits	...	...	5	1	...	1	...	...	1
Cowsheds	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...
Insanitary Dustbins	...	...	182	182	...	68	...	119	63
Dirty Premises	...	...	11	3	...	3	...	3	...
Totals	...	...	315	196	1	81	1	131	64

